

Environment Committee
Public Testimony
March 11, 2016

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 5583

Greetings Co-Chairs Senator Kennedy, Representative Albis;, Vice Chairs Senator Moore, Representative Arconti; Ranking Members Senator Chapin, Representative Shaban; and esteemed members of the Committee.

My name is Sharon Trombley and I am writing in SUPPORT of House Bill 5583 *AN ACT CONCERNING AN AGREEMENT REGARDING ANNUAL WATER LEVEL DRAW DOWNS AT BASHAN LAKE IN THE TOWN OF EAST HADDAM.*

First of all, I want to thank Senator Kennedy and Representative Albis for visiting Bashan Lake this past summer. For those of you on the Committee who have never visited Bashan Lake, I urge you to do so. Bashan Lake is a pristine, 273 acre, clear water lake and is ideal for recreational activities such as swimming, boating, and fishing. My family has owned a cottage on Bashan Lake for over 70 years. It's such a wonderful place to visit and enjoy that I could not bring myself to ever move away from the lake. I know my children feel the same and I am hoping that by continuing to fight for the health of the Bashan Lake my children and their children will be able to visit and enjoy the beauty and splendor of Bashan Lake.

Secondly, I would like to voice my concerns regarding my frustration with the most recent dam repair completed by the State of Connecticut, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. It was our hope at the beginning of this project that the dam would be completed in a timely manner thus avoiding any damage to the lake by invasive weeds and possible loss of aquatic life. Unfortunately, the dam repair took much longer than expected and the invasive weeds did indeed invade the lake. Private citizens such as lake residents, BLA members, and others have already spent thousands of dollars on attempting to control the weeds which were caused by the delay in the dam repair. The loss of aquatic life has yet to be determined since Bashan Lake has not returned to its normal water levels.

Thirdly and most importantly, I would like express my thoughts on the draw down at Bashan Lake. I feel it is critical for the State of Connecticut to continue to draw down Bashan Lake in order to prevent damage to the retaining walls that, in turn, prevent erosion into the lake. My husband recently purchased a piece of property on Bashan Lake and spent over \$5000.00 building a rip-rap stone wall that satisfied the DEEP and the East Haddam Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. In addition to building the wall we are required to plant certain plantings that help to prevent erosion into the lake. As land owners, we are committed to securing the environmental wellbeing of the lake. We hope the State will do the same by continuing the draw down.

I also feel the draw down is important to control the invasive weeds which are destroying Bashan Lake's beauty, its aquatic creatures and natural plant growth, as well as recreational uses enjoyed by lake residents and visitors. We must continue to control the invasive weeds such as milfoil and those that have invaded Bashan Lake as result of the recent dam repair such as Phragmites, cattails, and others. If not, the weeds will certainly take over Bashan Lake and destroy any uses of the lake-natural and recreational.

Thank you,

Sharon K. Trombley
102 Meeting House Hill Road
North Franklin, CT 06254
(860)642-6819

Lake Address:
66 Lakeside Drive
East Haddam, CT 06423